

February 3

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Dear Josh,

I ran into Platt last spring and he told me you had a position at Wisconsin, also had married. Please allow me to congratulate you somewhat belatedly.

I left for Europe as soon as I received my degree last June, have been ostensibly working with Kramers (I did my thesis with him in NY) but mostly travelling through France, Italy, etc. I am quite disillusioned concerning Europe, which is rotten with snobbery and formality (aside from the food which isn't their fault especially). It's too long to put into a letter, but I must say that one only appreciates Americans when one lives in Europe for a time. There is a healthy spirit at home which the Europeans completely lack, whatever other virtues they may have. I thought I would stay two years, but suddenly decided to return this summer, and have been working feverishly since then to finish a paper by the end of the month. It is a very interesting subject, the quantum mechanical manybody problem, and I shall try to tie in my results with the low temperature work here on helium II. That was the original point although I think it will have much interest beyond that.

What sort of things are you doing. ~~What's it like~~ How do you like your position. I have a twofold interest in asking, because it is possible that I should wish to come to Wisconsin myself. It is very active, but not cursed with excessive bigness like the physics departments at Columbia and MIT, for example. I have had enough of being a small frog in a very big pond at Columbia, and couldn't wait to get out. By the way, I taught last year at Cooper Union, and liked it much more except for the lack of balance between teaching and research. At any rate, I shall be waiting for what you have to say. Hoping to hear from you soon,

with best wishes,

Bob

JASTROW